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Notice of Allowability

Application No.		Applicant(s)	
10/737,074		USORO ET AL.	
Examiner		Art Unit	
Dirk Wright		3681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
- ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
- ☒ The drawings filed on 16 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>12162003</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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Claims Allowed

Claims 1-17 are allowable over the prior art of record. The claims are allowable because the prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the invention of an eight speed planetary gear transmission including three gear sets, each set having at least three members, a first interconnecting element continuously connecting a member of each of the three gear sets, an input shaft and an output shaft continuously connected to different respective member, a second interconnecting element continuously connecting another member of the first gear set with another member of the second gear set, seven torque transmitting mechanisms engaged in groups of two to establish the eight forward speeds and one reverse speed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art Discussed

The examiner has considered the references cited by applicant in his Information Disclosure Statement filed December 16, 2003. None of the references show all of the features of the claimed invention.

The references cited by the examiner are deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bucknor '749 shows an eight-speed transmission in figures 11 and 12 but only shows six torque transmitting mechanisms and no first interconnecting element. Usoro '904 shows another eight-speed transmission in figures 1, 9 and 11 but only shows six torque transmitting mechanisms and no second interconnecting element. Bucknor '903 shows yet another eight speed transmission in

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figures 9, 13, 14, and 20 but again only shows six torque transmitting mechanisms and no first interconnecting element. Raghavan '790 shows yet another eight speed transmission in figures 1, 2, 10 and 11 but again only shows six torque transmitting mechanisms and no first interconnecting element. Finally, Klemen '776 shows an eight speed transmission with many of the features of the claimed invention yet only has six torque transmitting mechanisms.

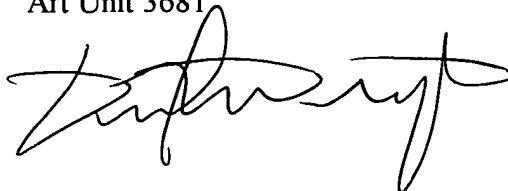
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 703-308-2160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681



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Thursday, March 03, 2005